



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE AWARENESS REGARDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG PARENTS OF THE SELECTED AREAS OF DISTRICT MANDI(H.P.) WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE AN INFORMATION BOOKLET.

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ABSTRACT

Parents play an important role in child growth and development Parents knowledge of CSA prevention will influence their children's CSA prevention directly. **Aims and Objectives:** The study aim to assess the awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents of the selected areas of district Mandi (H.P.). The objectives of the study was to assess the awareness regarding child sexual abuse among the parents of selected areas of district Mandi. To determine the association of awareness regarding child sexual abuse among the parents with their selected demographic variables. To develop and distribute information booklet regarding child sexual abuse. **Material and Methods:** Research design for this was descriptive in nature and helps to assess, explore describe and document the aspect of situation. The present study tries to describe the awareness of parents regarding child sexual abuse. A total of 100 parents were enrolled in the study by using purposive sampling technique(non probability). The self structured questionnaire was used to assess the awareness regarding child sexual abuse parents of selected areas of district Mandi. **Result:** The result shows that 23(23.0%) parents have adequate awareness, 77(77.0%) have moderate awareness and 0(0.0%) parents have inadequate awareness regarding child sexual abuse. Findings related to association of awareness regarding child sexual abuse among the parents with their selected socio-demographic variables: There is no significance association between the level of scores and demographic variables The calculated chi-square values were less than the table value at the 0.05 level of significance.

KEYWORDS

INTRODUCTION

Child sexual abuse is the involvement of children in sexual activities that they cannot understand ,for which they are developmentally unprepared and thus cannot give consent. Sexual abuse can, but does not always ,involve physical contact. Examples of abuse is not involving physical contact are indecent exposure are deliberately exposing a child to pornography . Sexual abuse can be a single event but is often chronic. Most perpetrators are not strangers but are known to the child through relationships such as family member, neighbor, or member of the community. Most sexual abuse involves manipulation and coercion. Sexual abuse is more common in girls than boys, although sexual abuse of boys is under recognized and underreported. Child sexual abuse (CSA) encompasses a wide variety of sexual behaviors including penetration of vagina or anus by a penis, finger, or any object ,oral sex, touching of the breasts or genitals, masturbation , exhibitionism (exposing oneself), voyeurism (spying/watching), exposing a child to or involving a child in pornography , and soliciting a child to engage in sexual activity. The problem of child sexual abuse is as humanity and occurs in all races, religions, economic groups (rich or poor) and disabilities, those who are mentally handicapped and children living in toxic family environment. Most of the caregivers take advantage of their disability and most of them have gone unpunished. The cases of incest in the families of the child have attributed and child is the prey for all those who are in thirst of sex. Nobody seems to care to report such cases, fearing the child's security and wellbeing since there won't be any one to look after the child if the caregiver is arrested. In some of the cases, which have left most children.

Parents play an important role in child growth and development. Parents' knowledge of CSA prevention will influence their children's CSA prevention awareness directly. parents awareness about CSA prevention and to provide a basis for designing a CSA prevention programme in schools and the community. By open communication with children parents can prevent their children from sexual abuse by told them that say no if someone wants to touch your private parts, ask to disclose your genitals. Now a days everyone has knowledge about **POCSO Act,Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act,2012** is legislation which aims at protecting children from all types of sexual abuse. Although the Convention On The Rights OfThe Child was adopted by United Nations in 1989,the offences against the children were not redressed by way of any legislation in India till the

year of 2012.It provides stringent deterrents for the commission of offences against children ranging from a minimum of 20 years of imprisonment to the death penalty in case of aggravated penetrative sexual assault.

Need For The Study

Child sexual abuse is an issue which most of us feel that the government is failing to bring to an end. The problem of child sexual abuse is as old as humanity and occurs in all races, religious, economic groups (rich or poor) and cultures. Studies have proposed that parents should create home environments where they are engaged and ready to respond to and openly discuss these kinds of topics that include talks on sexual abuse with their children, including those regarding private parts, good and bad touches , the importance of not keeping secrets from parents and caregivers , requesting permission before going anywhere , and reporting situations where they did not feel safe, and that these talks be offered in an easier language shows that parents are aware regarding child sexual abuse. The awareness programs are introduced to peoples to create awareness regarding child sexual abuse that help to prevent the incidence rate of child sexual abuse, the key components of awareness – building efforts should include : what child sexual abuse is, its prevalence, who experiences it ,and at what ages ,how a child feels when and after being victimized, the serious harm and consequences caused to the child ,children typical emotional ,social and behavioural responses after victimization ,including ways in which they may indicate their experiences without frank disclosure. Enhanced public awareness, including through media campaigns, should also be a priority. However awareness alone may not reduce child sexual abuse . but it may help to prevent the incidence rate of child sexual abuse. Many approaches to prevention of child sexual abuse have been proposed, but the effectiveness of many of them has not been established by rigorous studies. Parental awareness on child sexual abuse and parenting technique is very much essential for the child to grow in a better manner. So the investigator was interested to assess the awareness of parents regarding child sexual abuse and providing information regarding child sexual abuse.

METHODOLOGY:

Research approach

In view of the nature of the problems and to accomplish the objectives of the study Quantitative research approach was considered to be the most appropriate to collect the data selected the awareness of parents

living in selected villages of district Mandi on child sexual abuse.

Research design

The type of design directs the selection of population, procedure of sampling method, measurement and plan for data collection and analysis. Research design for this was descriptive in nature and helps to assess, explore describe and document the aspect of situation. The present study tries to describe the awareness of parents regarding child sexual abuse.

Research Variables

- **Dependent Variable:** Awareness of mothers regarding child sexual abuse.
- **Independent Variable:** Socio demographic variables such as age, gender, education.

Research setting

The study setting is the physical location in which data collection takes place for the study. The presented study was conducted at selected areas of district Mandi.

Population

The population of the present study is parents living in the selected area of district Mandi.

- **Target population:** target population is the entire population in which the researcher is interested and would like to generalize the result of the study.

The target population for the present study was parents having children under 11 to 18 years old.

- **Accessible population:** the accessible population is the portion of the target population that the researcher can access.

In this study the accessible population was parents present at that time of data collection.

Sample

For the present study selected samples are parents of children under 11 to 18yrs in the selected area of district Mandi HP who fulfill the sampling criteria.

Sampling Technique

Sampling refers to the process of selecting apportion population to represent the entire population. For the present study convenient sampling technique was used.

Sample Size

Sample size refers to the number of participants or observation include in a study.

For the present study the sample size was 100 parents in selected areas of district Mandi.

Criteria For Sample Selection

Inclusion Criteria:-

- Parents having children under 18yrs
- Parents who will present at the time of study

Exclusion Criteria:-

- Parents who will not mentally sound
- Parents who had already attended educational program on child sexual abuse.

Data Collection Instrument

Research instrument are also called research tool, are the device used to collect data which facilitate the observation and measurement of variable. (Rose Murie neiswaradomy 1993)

The tool consisted two sections.

Section A-

It deals with socio demographic variables of parents. It consist of 13 questions related to age, religion, type of family, education, occupation, place of residence, previous knowledge and witness.- awareness regarding child sexual abuse.

Section B-

Awareness regarding child sexual abuse. The awareness aspects

consist of 32 questions regarding the awareness of child sexual abuse. It includes awareness regarding child sexual abuse, types of child sexual abuse, physical and emotional impact on children, management and prevention of child sexual abuse.

Scoring Interpretation

Level of Awareness	Range of Score
Below average	0-32
Average	33-64
Above average	65-96
Good	97-128

Ethical Clearance

Ethical clearance for the study was obtained from the institutional ethical committee.

Findings

Regarding the age of mother 35(35.0%) belongs to the age group of 30-35 years, 38(38.0%) to 36-40 years, 27(27.0%) to 41-45 years and 0(0.0%) belongs to the age group of 45-50 years. Age of father 1(1.0%) belongs to the age group of 30-35 years, 24(24.0%) to 36-40 years, 40(40.0%) to 41-45 years and 35(35.0%) belongs to 46-50 years. Regarding the age of children 52(52.0%) belongs to the age group of 11-15 years and 48(48.0%) to 15-18 years. Regarding the religion 85(85.0%) belongs to Hindu religion, and other belongs to 8(8.05%) belongs to Sikh religion. All of the parents 100(100%) resides in rural area. Regarding education status of mother 24 (24.0) were literate, most of the mothers 32 (32.0%) have primary education, 17(17.0) have secondary education, 19(19.0%) have higher secondary education, and 8(8.0%) were graduated. Education status of father 9(9.0%) were literate, 22(22.0%) have primary education, 29(29.0%) have secondary education, 26(26.0%) have higher secondary education and 14(14.0%) were graduated. Most of the parents 66(66.0%) belongs to nuclear family, 27(27.0) belongs to joint family, and 7(7.0%) belongs to extended family. Regarding the occupation status of mothers 8(8.0%) were Govt. employee, 13(13.0%) private employee, 4(4.0%) self employed, and 4(4.0%) daily wages. Occupation status of father 13(13.0%) were Govt. employee, 25(25.0%) private employee, and 29 (29.0%) were farmer. Monthly income of family 29(29%) in between 10,000-20,000, 29(29%) in between 20,001-30,000, 31(31.0%) in between 30,001-40,000, 11(11.0%) have > 40,000. Regarding the total number of children 47(47.0%) have boys and 53(53.0%) have girls. Parents has not witnessed regarding child sexual abuse.

Findings related to awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents :

The result shows that 23(23.0%) parents have adequate awareness, 77(77.0%) have moderate awareness and 0(0.0%) parents have inadequate awareness regarding child sexual abuse.

Findings related to association of awareness regarding child sexual abuse among the parents with their selected socio-demographic variables:

There is no significance association between the level of scores and demographic variables. The calculated chi-square values were less than the table value at the 0.05 level of significance.

DISCUSSION

The findings of the study have been discussed in accordance with the objectives of the study and previously reviewed literature. The child sexual abuse awareness study was conducted on parents residing in distt. Mandi HP. The aim of the study was to check the awareness regarding child sexual abuse among parents. The result of the study shows that 23% parents have adequate awareness, 77% have moderate awareness and 0.0 % have inadequate knowledge. There is no significance association between the level of scores and socio demographic variables.

CONCLUSION

The result of the study revealed that 23% parents have adequate awareness, 77% have moderate awareness and 0.0 % have inadequate knowledge. There is no significance association between the level of scores and socio demographic variables.

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